(c) storing the received data stream in a temporary buffer;

(d) monitoring, within the decoder, a data overflow condition in the buffer;

(e) transmitting, from the decoder to the reproducing device, a warning signal indicating the data overflow condition; and

(f) adjusting, within the reproducing device, the data transfer rate of the data stream from the reproducing device to the decoder, whereby the decoder receives the data stream at a reduced data transfer rate to prevent buffer overflow.

14.   (Newly Added) The method of claim 13 in which transmitting and receiving the data stream in steps (a) and (b), respectively, includes transmitting and receiving an MPEG transport stream.

15.   (Newly Added) The method of claim 13 in which step (b) of receiving and step (e) of transmitting includes, respectively, receiving the data stream and transmitting the warning signal between the reproducing device, which is housed in one unit and the decoder, which is housed in a separate unit.

16.   (Newly Added) The method of claim 13 in which step (b) of receiving includes receiving MPEG transport packets and step (f) of adjusting includes adjusting an interval between each transport packet.

17.   (Newly Added) The method of claim 13 in which transmitting and receiving the data stream in steps (a) and (b), respectively, includes transmitting and receiving the data stream over an IEEE 1394 bus.

18.   (Newly Added) The method of claim 13 in which step (b) of receiving includes receiving MPEG transport packets and step (c) of storing